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Halter

In a halter with a number of components, such as neck piece, nose band, cheek pieces, throat strap and chin strap, the purpose is to reduce the risk of injury to the animal wearing the halter. To this end it is provided that the tensile elasticity of at least one component (2, 10) of the halter (1) is formed differently from the tensile elasticity of other components (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9).

The following data have been taken from the documents filed by the applicant.

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## Description

The invention relates to a halter with a number of components, such as neck piece, nose band, cheek pieces, throat strap and chin strap.

A halter to be put on the head of animals used for riding, primarily horses, serves to tether or lead the animals. Conventional halters consist of relatively inelastic material. In particular if the animal moves backwards in panic, this causes the moving animal to be brought to a halt with a jerk, which can lead to injury to the animal.

It is known to firmly tether an animal wearing a halter by means of a rope using a 'panic hook'. The panic hook releases when a certain load is exceeded and thus sets the animal free. Disadvantageously, the effect of the panic hook is produced only when the load arises with a jerk, and not when the force increases more slowly. Furthermore, it often happens that a panic hook just does not work at the crucial moment so that, in spite of its use, the animal may in many cases sustain injuries, particularly to the head and joints.

The aim of the invention is to improve a halter of the kind mentioned at the start in such a way as to reduce the risk of injury to an animal wearing the halter.

To this end, according to the invention, it is provided that the tensile elasticity of at least one component of the halter is formed differently from the tensile elasticity of other components. In particular, it may be provided that the tensile elasticity of at least one of the components that is subjected to, in particular, tensile load in the event of a backwards movement made in panic by a draught animal or an animal used for riding that is being led or is tethered and is wearing the halter, is greater than the tensile elasticity of the other components.

Advantageously, in the event of tensile load exceeding a certain limit as a result of the elasticity of individual components, the halter can be slipped off the animal's head, thus releasing the animal so that there is no longer any risk of injury through the animal's coming to a halt with a jerk. A further advantage resides in the fact that the halter, in contrast to a rigid halter, generates a slowly increasing counter-pressure. In many cases an animal wearing the halter is calmed down by the gradually rising counter-pressure, with the result that, firstly, injuries are avoided and, secondly, the halter is not slipped off.

The components to be formed with greater elasticity than the other components are primarily the nose band and/or neck piece and/or chin strap and/or cheek pieces.

The invention is described in greater detail hereinafter with reference to the embodiment shown in the drawings, in which:

**Fig. 1** shows a diagrammatic view of the head of a horse wearing a halter according to the invention;

**Fig. 2** shows a perspective view of the halter according to **Fig. 2**.

The halter seen in **Fig. 1** and **Fig. 2** shows a plurality of components, viz. a nose band **2**, chin strap **3** and **4**, cheek pieces **5**, **6**, a joining piece **7**, throat strap **8**, **9** and a neck piece **10**. A buckle serving to close the neck piece **10** bears the reference number **11**. A pin is marked **12**.

In the embodiment shown, the shaded components, i.e. the nose band **2** and the neck piece **10**, are formed with greater elasticity than the rest of the components. The rest of the components consist, for example, of leather, whereas the elastic components consist of elastic rubber material of greater elasticity.

A horse wearing the halter **1** is firmly tethered by means of a rope (not shown) that can be attached to a ring **14** or buckles **15**, **16** in the region of the nose band **2** or the chin straps **3**, **4**. If the horse **13** moves backwards in panic, e.g. in the direction of arrow **A**, the force exerted on the halter following the tightening of the rope causes the elastically formed components **2** and **10** to slowly stretch. The horse **13** thus experiences the counter-pressure that arises when the rope tightens not with a jerk, but gradually, which in many cases leads to the horse's calming down. If, however, the horse should not calm down, the elastic formation of the nose band **2** and the neck piece **10** allows the halter **1** to be slipped off, releasing the horse, which, in the majority of cases, then stands still.

#### Patent claims

1. Halter with a number of components, such as neck piece, nose band, cheek pieces, throat strap and chin strap, **characterised in that** the tensile elasticity of at least one component (**2**, **10**) of the halter (**1**) is formed differently from the tensile elasticity of other components (**3**, **4**, **5**, **6**, **7**, **8**, **9**).
2. Halter according to Claim 1, characterised in that the tensile elasticity of at least one of the components (**2**) that is subjected to, in particular, tensile load in the event of a backwards movement made in panic by a draught animal or an animal used for riding (**13**) that is being led or is tethered and is wearing the halter (**1**), is greater than the tensile elasticity of the other components.
3. Halter according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the tensile elasticity of the nose band (**2**) is greater than the tensile elasticity of the other components.
4. Halter according to one of the Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the tensile elasticity of the chin straps (**3**, **4**) is greater than the tensile elasticity of the other components.
5. Halter according to one of Claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the tensile elasticity of the neck piece (**10**) is greater than the tensile elasticity of the other components.
6. Halter according to one of the Claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the tensile elasticity of the cheek pieces (**5**, **6**) is greater than the tensile elasticity of the other components.

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Includes 1 page of drawings

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DRAWINGS PAGE 1

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